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Remarks

Claims 1-25 were presented for examination. Claims 1-25 were rejected.

In the specification, the CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS has been amended to reflect the current status of the parent application.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-25 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,643,004. Enclosed herewith is a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) overcoming this rejection.

In response to the Examiner's inquiry, Nathan Corey is to be deleted as an inventor from the present application because Mr. Corey made no inventive contribution to the invention claimed herein. More specifically, in the parent application (Application Serial No: 10/302,081, now U.S. Pat No. 6,643,004, filed November 22, 2002 and issued November 4, 2003), Mr. Corey's inventive contribution related to claims directed to a labyrinth seal. The present application includes no such claims. Consequently, correction of inventorship is appropriate.

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For the above reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that the above claims represent allowable subject matter. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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